

Weekly Weather And Crop Bulletin

Released January 30, 2007, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture. For information on *Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin* call Theresa Holland at (202) 720-7621, office hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET.

National Weather Summary Volume 94, No. 5 January 21 - 27, 2007

For additional information, call (202) 720-2397.

Highlights: Chilly weather lingered from **California to the southern Plains**, but unusually mild conditions returned to the **northern Plains** and the **upper Midwest**. Weekly temperatures ranged from more than 10 degrees F below normal in portions of the **Four Corners region** to as much as 15 degrees F above normal on the **northern High Plains**. Meanwhile, the **Northeast's** coldest weather of the season drove late-week temperatures to -10 degrees F or lower across **northern sections of New York and New England**. Significant precipitation (an inch or more) was confined to the **Gulf Coast and Southeastern States**, maintaining soggy conditions from **coastal Texas into southern Louisiana**, but providing drought relief in **Florida and southeastern Georgia**. Weekly rainfall topped 3 inches in parts of **southern Louisiana**. Farther north, mostly dry weather in the **Ohio Valley** allowed lowland flooding to gradually subside, although many **lower Midwestern** fields remained unfavorably wet. **Midwestern** precipitation was heaviest downwind of the **Great Lakes**, where squalls produced locally heavy snowfall. Meanwhile on the **Plains**, mild, dry windy weather eroded snow across the **northern Plains**, leaving wheat exposed to potential weather extremes. Elsewhere across the **Nation's mid-section**, snow gradually melted across the **southern Plains**, but a shallow to moderately deep snow cover still existed by week's end from **Nebraska (excluding the northwest) southward into Texas' northern panhandle**. Dry weather prevailed in the **West**, aside from some snow in **southern portions of Arizona and New Mexico**, light precipitation in the **Rockies and Pacific Northwest**, and late-week showers in **central California**. Recent **Western** dryness and meager high-elevation snowpacks fueled concerns about summer water supplies in several areas—including **California, the Great Basin**, and parts of the **Southwest**.

Early in the week, light to moderately heavy snow spread from the **Midwest into the Mid-Atlantic States**. Daily-record totals for January 21 included 5.6 inches in **Waterloo, IA**, and 3.8 inches in **Cincinnati, OH**. Farther south, however, warmth continued in **Florida**, where daily-record highs for January 22 climbed to 86 degrees F in both **Vero Beach** and **Melbourne**. In contrast, chilly conditions lingered in **California**. On January 23-24, consecutive daily-record lows were set in **Redding** (26 and 25 degrees F) and **Red Bluff** (28 and 27 degrees F). Elsewhere in **California**, **Camarillo** noted daily records (31, 35, and 34 degrees F) on January 21, 25, and 26. Cold weather also lingered in **Arizona**, where **Greer** (-8 degrees F) posted a daily-record low for January 23. In

California's San Joaquin Valley at Fresno, the streak of lows at or below 32 degrees F finally ended at 19 days (January 6-24). The 19-day streak surpassed **Fresno's** 16-day spell of consecutive freezes observed from December 18, 1990 - January 2, 1991, but fell just shy of its record-setting 20-day cold snap from January 3-22, 1947.

By mid-week, heavy showers developed in the **western Gulf Coast region**, while warmth returned to the **northern Plains**. In **Texas**, daily-record rainfall totals for January 24 included 1.81 inches in **Victoria** and 1.36 inches in **Corpus Christi**. Farther north, daily-record highs for January 25 reached 66 degrees F in **Flatwillow, MT**, and 59 degrees F in **Dickinson, ND**. A day later, **Northeastern** temperatures remained below 0 degrees F for the entire day in several locations, including **Montpelier, VT** (high of -2 degrees F on January 26). Daily record-tying lows for January 26 included 5 degrees F in **Bridgeport, CT**, and 9 degrees F at **New York's JFK Airport, Baltimore, MD** (14 degrees F on January 26), experienced its lowest reading since February 19, 2006, while **Albany, NY** (-3 degrees F on January 26), had its lowest temperature since January 29, 2005.

Early-week snowfall blanketed parts of **southeastern Arizona**, where January 21-22 totals included 24.0 inches at **Hannagan Meadow**, 8.3 inches in **Bisbee**, and a trace in **Tucson**. Later, snow crept into **southern New Mexico** and **western Texas**, where January 22-23 totals reached 2.3 inches in Carlsbad, NM, and 1.6 inches in **El Paso, TX**. Farther north, precipitation lingered early in the week across the **central Plains**, where January 20-21 snowfall totaled 6.8 inches in **North Platte, NE**. For locations such as **Denver, CO**, and **North Platte**, January 30 was the 41st consecutive day with at least a 1-inch snow cover at 7 a.m. The 41-day duration with snow cover represents the fifth-longest such streak in **Denver** (the record is 63 days in 1983-84) and seventh longest in **North Platte** (the record is 88 days in 1978-79).

Mostly dry weather prevailed in **Hawaii**, allowing for a wide range of temperatures. **Lihue, Kauai**, posted a daily record-tying high of 83 degrees F for January 25, followed 2 days later on the **Big Island** by a daily-record low of 58 degrees F in **Hilo**. **Hawaiian** showers were isolated; one of the higher 24-hour totals was 1.86 inches, which fell in **Kokee, Kauai**, on January 22-23. At the State's major reporting stations, January 1-27 rainfall ranged from 0.06 inch (2 percent of normal) in **Kahului, Maui**, to 12.23 inches (144 percent) in **Hilo**. However, nearly all (12.19 inches) of **Hilo's** rain fell from January 1-20. Meanwhile, **Alaska** experienced another week with occasional storminess, with temperatures ranging from more than 5 degrees F below normal in some western areas to at least 10 degrees F above normal across parts of the interior. In **southern Alaska, Valdez** netted a weekly snowfall of 45.2 inches, including 20.0 inches on January 21-22 and 21.5 inches on January 25-26. **Valdez's** month-to-date snowfall of 137.8 inches (240 percent of normal) represented its highest January total since 1990, when 148.5 inches fell. Elsewhere, **Nome's** January 1-27 snowfall of 38.7 inches was nearing its January record of 40.9 inches, set in 1937, while **Anchorage's** month-to-date sum of 29.3 inches was 376 percent of normal.

National Agricultural Summary
January 22 - 28, 2007

Highlights: Temperatures averaged closer to normal in many areas of the country during the week. California and the Desert Southwest experienced a gradual warming trend, while much of the East and South cooled somewhat to seasonal norms. Unseasonably warm temperatures averaging 5 to 15 degrees F above normal prevailed across the northern Great Plains, contrasting with averages 5 to 10 degrees F cooler than normal southward through the Rocky Mountains and High Plains, as well as across the Northeast. The warm, dry weather in Montana and South Dakota depleted the sparse snow cover, leaving winter wheat vulnerable to damage from extreme overnight temperatures. Beneficial rains stretched across south Texas along the Gulf Coast and into the Southeast, including most of Florida.

In California, assessments of damage to citrus and vegetable crops due to recent freezes continue, with county officials indicating significant losses in many areas. The recent cold and lack of moisture slowed the growth of field crops and pastures, but the return of milder weather allowed growers to resume most field activities. In Arizona, seeding of small grains neared completion, while harvest of alfalfa, citrus and vegetable crops was active under cool, mostly dry conditions. In Texas, rain in the south and along the Gulf Coast was beneficial for growth of small grains and pastures. With short forage supplies in many areas of the state, cold weather and heavy winds contributed to an increase in supplemental feeding of livestock. In Florida, as cooler temperatures swept over the state, sugarcane and citrus harvest remained active, as did planting and harvesting of a variety of vegetables.

ACCESS TO REPORTS!!

For your convenience, there are several ways to obtain NASS reports, data products, and services:

INTERNET ACCESS

All NASS reports are available free of charge on the worldwide Internet. For access, connect to the Internet and go to the NASS Home Page at: **www.nass.usda.gov**.

E-MAIL SUBSCRIPTION

All NASS reports are available by subscription free of charge direct to your e-mail address. Starting with the NASS Home Page at **www.nass.usda.gov**, under the right navigation, *Receive reports by Email*, click on **National** or **State**. Follow the instructions on the screen.

PRINTED REPORTS OR DATA PRODUCTS

CALL OUR TOLL-FREE ORDER DESK: 800-999-6779 (U.S. and Canada)
Other areas, please call 703-605-6220 FAX: 703-605-6900
(Visa, MasterCard, check, or money order acceptable for payment.)

ASSISTANCE

For **assistance** with general agricultural statistics or further information about NASS or its products or services, contact the **Agricultural Statistics Hotline** at **800-727-9540**, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: **nass@nass.usda.gov**.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.